



NATIONAL YOUTH EMPLOYMENT COALITION

Workforce Investment Act (WIA) Leaders Academy

The Workforce Investment Act (WIA) Leaders Academy is a one-year professional development opportunity for mid-level professional staff of local and state Workforce Investment Boards and agencies. This training program is being offered by the National Youth Employment Coalition (NYEC) with funding from the U.S. Department of Labor, Employment and Training Administration, Office of Youth Services.

The goal of the WIA Leaders Academy is to better serve youth by strengthening current skills and building new competencies required for future leadership of youth workforce development systems.

The objectives of the WIA Leaders Academy are:

- ◆ to increase participants' understanding of youth employment and youth development principles and effective practices;
- ◆ to expose participants to current methods for continuous improvement in youth employment programming;
- ◆ to assist participants in addressing WIA implementation challenges;
- ◆ to expand participants' organizational and professional networks;
- ◆ to improve participants' leadership and managerial skills; and
- ◆ to expand participants' outlook and understanding of national youth policy issues.

Coordinated by the National Youth Employment Coalition (NYEC), the WIA Leaders Academy combines two week-long group residential training sessions with individually-tailored, experiential assignments for WIA Leaders.

Those individuals selected to participate in the WIA Leaders Academy will:

- Attend two week-long **Residential Training Sessions** designed to address major challenges of WIA implementation through exposure to current information about practice, policy, and research from the fields of youth employment and youth development;
- Work with a team of colleagues throughout the year on a **Topical Study Group** project focused on WIA implementation challenges to broaden their understanding of systemic and substantive issues;
- Create an **Organizational Development Plan** with goals and time lines for affecting positive change within his/her organization;
- Work one-on-one with a **Career Advisor** who serves as a mentor and provides assistance with everyday management, organizational challenges and network development; and
- Develop a **National Professional Network** that includes experts in the fields of youth employment and youth development and other leaders from WIA youth programs across the country.

WHO SHOULD APPLY?

NYEC specifically seeks mid-level professionals who are:

- staff of local and state Workforce Investment Boards and/or public agencies responsible for dispensing WIA funds; and
- primarily responsible for WIA youth programs.

NOTE: *Preference will be given to employees of those agencies not currently funded through the U.S. Department of Labor Youth Opportunity Grants.*

Other selection criteria include:

- demonstrated commitment to improving the youth employment/youth development field;
- support of employing organization to sponsor travel (to and from two residential training sessions) and to provide release time for study throughout the year; and
- commitment to participate in ALL program activities for one year.

HOW TO APPLY:

Complete and return the application to NYEC **no later than August 23, 2002**. Applications may be obtained online at www.nyec.org/wialeaders.html or by contacting Mindy Larson at 202.659.1064/email ml@nyec.org.

The application requires a recommendation from the applicant's supervisor as well as a senior officer of the employing organization (i.e., Board Chair, Executive Director).

Each application is reviewed by three applicant reviewers and the final selection is determined by the program's Board of Overseers and the U.S. Department of Labor.

Incomplete and late applications will not be considered.

FEES

Through funding from the U.S. Department of Labor, NYEC will cover the costs of instruction, materials, lodging and meals during two training sessions, and honoraria for faculty and advisors. WIA Leaders' employing organizations will be responsible for covering additional costs of travel (i.e. airfare, train fare) to and from the two residential training sessions. Employers must also allow release time for participation in the two one-week long residential training sessions over the year, and also encourage WIA Leaders to devote 3-4 hours each month to Topical Study Group work.

For more information, contact Mala B. Thakur, Director of Capacity Building Initiatives (mt@nyec.org) or Mindy Larson, Program Manager (ml@nyec.org) or call (202) 659-1064.

DATES: The two week-long residential training sessions are tentatively planned for mid-November 2002 (D.C.) and mid-May 2003 (location TBA). More details will be available as of August 1, 2002.